

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-06 EB-08 PRS-01 /071 W
-----180943Z 119839 /12

R 180836Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2700
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
SECDEF
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2440

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SY, ENRG
SUBJECT: FIRE ALONG SYRIAN OIL PIPELINE

1. UK EMBOFF TOLD US APRIL 15 THAT ONE OF THEIR VISITING JOURNALISTS HAD UNCOVERED STORY ABOUT FIRE ALONG SYRIAN OIL PIPELINE WHICH OCCURRED AT "TEL ADAS" BETWEEN RUMAYLAN AND HOMS. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, FIRE BURNED FOR TWO-THREE DAYS IN EARLY APRIL AND WAS FINALLY PUT OUT WITH ASSISTANCE FROM TURKISH FIRE BRIGADES. DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT 26 MIL. DOLS. SYRIAN AUTHORITIES SUSPECTED SABOTAGE, BUT SOURCE SAID THEY HAD FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS ASSERTION BY TIME NEWSMAN DEPARTED. AUTHORITIES WERE ALSO KEEPING NEWS ABOUT FIRE RESTRICTED, AND JOURNALIST WAS UNABLE TO FILE HIS STORY FROM DAMASCUS.

2. LOCAL TAPLINE REP CONFIRMED FIRE REPORT AND THAT
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MAJOR DAMAGE HAD OCCURRED, BUT LOCATED IT AT EDGE OF RUMAYLAN OPERATIONS WHERE PIPELINE BEGINS.

3. COMMENT: LOCATION OF FIRE IN REGION NEAR TURKISH BORDER WHERE MANY IN POPULATION SYMPATHETIC TO BAGHDAD REGIME SUGGESTS POSSIBILITY THAT IRAQIS MAY HAVE SABOTAGED PIPELINE. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF VULNERABILITY

OF IRAQI PIPELINES TO SYRIAN SABOTEURS, WE WOULD BE
SURPRISED IF BAGHDAD HAD DECIDED TO STRIKE AT ASAD
REGIME IN THIS FASHION. IN ANY CASE, ASSERTION OF SABOTAGE
REMAINS UNPROVEN.
PELLETREAU

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM PIPELINES, FIRES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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